

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1657

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: JOINT AD HOC GROUP BRIEFING OF

NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS FEBRUARY 22, 1974

FROM US REP MBFR

1. A SMALL DELEGATION OF AD HOC GROUP COMPOSED OF NETHERLANDS REP, US REP AND UK, FRG, NORWEGIAN AND PORTUGUESE DEP REPS GAVE BRIEFING TO MEMBERS OF THE MBFR SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY CONSISTING OF VAN DELDEN (ACTING CHAIRMAN), THYNESS, PLOEG AND CAMARA PINA, PLUS MR. S. LUNN (ACTING DIRECTOR OF COMMITTEES AND STUDIES). NETHERLANDS REP, WHO CHAIRED SESSION, USED TEXT OF HIS PRESS BRIEFING (SEE VIENNA 0277) AS BASIS FOR OPENING REMARKS. MOST OF DISCUSSION WAS ON STANDARD LINES AND GROUP APPEARED SATISFIED WITH THE BRIEFING.

2. DURING SESSION, NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN THYNESS ASKED WHY IT WAS SO DIFFICULT TO INCLUDE NUCLEAR
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WEAPONS WHEN WESTERN HOLDINGS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN

CENTRAL EUROPE APPEARED TO HAVE GROWN HAPHAZARDLY. HE ASSERTED THAT WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION BELIEVED MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WERE NOW STALEMATED. ALTHOUGH WEST ENVISAGED TWO PHASES OF SHARPLY SEPARATED NEGOTIATIONS, WOULD IT NOT BE POSSIBLE IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES TO MIX THE PHASES TO SOME EXTENT IN ORDER TO GIVE EAST SOME ASSURANCE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN REDUCTIONS IN SECOND PHASE? THYNESS HAD MET WITH SOVIET REP SMIRNOVSKY ON PREVIOUS DAY. LATTER HAD PUT FORTH GENERAL SOVIET CASE AND HAD PROPOSED TOKEN REDUCTION OF WEST EUROPEAN FORCES AS EARNEST OF WEST EUROPEAN INTENT TO REDUCE IN PHASE II. THYNESS WAS IMPRESSED WITH THIS ARGUMENT AND HAS APPARENTLY SUGGESTED TO HIS COLLEAGUES ON SUB-COMMITTEE THAT THEY INCLUDE RECOMMENDATION TO THIS EFFECT IN THEIR REPORT ON MBFR NEGOTIATIONS TO NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY. VAN DELDEN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF SUB-COMMITTEE OPPOSE THIS RECOMMENDATION BOTH ON SUBSTANCE AND ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS NOT UP TO MEMBERS OF SUB-COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS.

3. IT IS CLEAR THAT A PUBLIC RECOMMENDATION FROM NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS RECOMMENDING TOKEN REDUCTION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN FORCES IN PHASE I WOULD UNDERMINE ALLIED NEGOTIATING POSITION. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ALERT SENATOR BENSON OR STAFF AS TO STATUS OF DISCUSSION WITHIN SUB-COMMITTEE AS SET FORTH ABOVE. HUMES

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